

NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 31.

General Committee of Democratic Whig Young Men.—An all-day meeting of the Committee will be held at the Bowery House, Friday eve, from 5 p.m. to 7 o'clock. By order of the Committee.

E. DELAFIELD SMITH, Chairman.

JACOB W. SMITH, Secretary.

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'Why Agitate the Slavery Question?'

A falsehood may be told in asking a question as well as in answering it. Probably more false and injurious impressions are created by indirect and insinuated charges than by direct and straightforward accusations. And one of the most current and mischievous lies of the day is enveloped in the folds of the street-corner remark that the talker 'don't see any use in agitating the subject of Slavery.'

'Agitating'—what agitation do you refer to?—Not be periphrastic and stop talking down your throat? If you think we ought to let Slavery grasp all the unorganized territory of the Union, why not say that? If you incline to a half-and-half division, why not ascertain that such an adjustment will satisfy the Propagandists, and then state directly who object to giving it up? And if you don't mean anything in particular, why not keep quiet till you shall have something to say?

We insist that in the Slavery agitations of the last ten or fifteen years our position and that of those with whom we have acted has been essentially a defensive and conservative one, while the novelties that disturb our peace have originated with our adversaries. They have been the agitators, if anybody has. They first seized the U.S. Mails and destroyed a part of their contents on a vague charge that they contained 'incendiary matter'—an offense utterly unknown to the laws, and by no means constituting a legal justification of Mail Robbery. They attempted to legalize the systematic robbing of Mails on suspicion that they contained Anti-Slavery documents. They gagged down the Right of Petition in Congress, causing all memorial relays to Slavery to be stifled in both Houses—a despotism from which the House has since receded under the pressure of public sentiment, but in which the Senate still persists. They conspired to steal Texas from Mexico, and finally dragged our Government directly into their crime, by making it a receiver of the stolen goods. They encouraged and sustained Texas in her outrageous claim to two-thirds of New Mexico and one-third each of Chihuahua and Tamaulipas, whereby our country was plunged into a wrongful and expensive War. From beginning to end of this series, the oligarchy of Slavery Propagandists, who overawed and managed the South, has been the agitator and the aggressor. The adversaries of that oligarchy have occupied substantially defensive ground.

Slavery has advanced, invaded, and conquered, at the expense of Freedom. It now possesses in Texas, (including the country of the Lower Rio Grande, which, though not rightfully belonging to Texas, has been grasped by and we can never be recovered from her) a region nearly as large as, and decidedly more genial and fertile than France, which was Free Soil when the Government revolted to its hands by the election of Andrew Jackson to the Presidency. Free Labor has won no acre from Slavery under the protection of our law. Mr. Clingman testifies, confirming our own belief, by resistance and agitation. The lesson must not be lost.

We know well that Mr. Clay's heart is right, and that his views are temperate and far-sighted. We thank him heartily for the truths affirmed by his Compromise Resolutions. Coming from the representative of a Southern State, and one which has just reaffirmed its devotion to Slavery, they are of great practical worth to the cause of Justice and Human Freedom. But their adoption by the North as its own, in the present state of the case, is quite another affair. For example:

"**3d. Resolved.** That as Slavery does not exist by law and is not to be introduced into these territories, acquire by the United States from the Republic of Mexico, it is in the interest of the United States to have the same, or its exclusion from any part of the said territory."

Now when the representatives of the Slavey Propagandists shall have generally voted for the first branch of this affirmation, it will not be impossible for Northern delegates to acquiesce in the latter; but until then how can they? Not less than twenty Senators and a corresponding force in the House now vehemently contend that Slavery by the right of any slaveholder at pleasure to establish and require the Government to maintain it does exist in those Territories—shall be established must be at all hazards—how can we consent to disarm ourselves by voting that it is 'inexpedient' to pass any restrictive Proviso? Is it not clear the essential conditions which, even according to Mr. Clay's statement, would justify us in acceding to such a declaration, do not exist in fact, however they may in equity?

Then as to New-Mexico and Texas—there is no imaginable ground on which Texas can justify her own independence of Mexico which does not clearly establish the complete independence of New-Mexico as to herself. Had Texas declared herself independent of Mexico? So had New-Mexico always and in every way affirmed her complete independence of Texas—an independent existence during at least a century before there was any manner interrupted. Had Texas vindicated her independence of Mexico by arms in every essential encounter? So had New-Mexico her independence of Texas, and much more signally. Did the people of Texas revolt at and contra the domination of Mexico? Much more so did those of New-Mexico spurn the dominion of Texas, at all times. For every consideration showing the rightful independence of Texas, there are ten quite as strong showing that New-Mexico is independent of her. Whoever pretends to justify the claim of Texas to New-Mexico thereby affirms himself a deadly foe to the elemental ideas of Self-Government and Freedom.

To Mr. Clay's fourth resolution as it stands to pay "dollars" to Texas if she will let go the hair of New-Mexico, we do not object; but if the blank were to be filled up with any considerable sum, we should deem it a bitter pill. This country has paid a great deal more for Texas than she will ever be worth to it, and she has 'conveyed' a very liberal quantity of wild lands under our protection. There ought to be some end to our paying for this hard bargain, and we want to find it.

Yet what Mr. Clay urges with regard to our rightful responsibility to some extent for that debt has great force. As between us and the creditors of Texas, the facts that she has proved a very hard bargain to us, and that we should be glad to let her go at half her cost, have no pertinence, no force. These creditors had a lien in equity and in law on the Custom Revenue of Texas, and we absorbed them by an arrangement to which those creditors were no party. They have a just claim on us, so far as we can see, to the extent of the fair probability that those Revenues would have ever paid their debt, and our agreement with Texas that she should pay them cannot void her creditors rights. We shall have to step to the captain's office, therefore, and settle for the value of these custom-house receipts—or rather, of the men upon them held by the creditors. The prospect is not a pleasant one, but we cannot see around us to fit it. If any body can, we will thank him for a loan of his spectacles. But three millions of dollars would certainly be a liberal compromise for the value of this claim.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Worcester Spy still keeps up the lead of its column the name of John G. PALFREY, the Free Soil candidate for Congress in the IVth District, although no day has been set apart for another trial. The findings of the last (Seventh) trial as given in a table in the Spy are as follows: Thompson, Whig, 4413; Palfrey, F. S. 5888; Thompson, Cass Loco, 1790. This vote is over 4,000 short of the next contest. Robinson alone losing over 2,000 votes. At the Presidential election Gen. Taylor received 6,880 votes; Van Buren, 2,259; Cass, 4,519. At the first trial (Nov. 1848) Palfrey received 3,419, Thompson, 3,579; Thompson and others, 3,312. It is hoped that the plurality bill now before the Legislature will be adopted. Massachusetts should be fully represented in the Councils of the Nation at the present time.

Die REPUBLIK DER ARBEITER. (The Working men's Republic) is the title of a new semi-monthly paper in the German language, which has just been issued under the editorial direction of WILLIAM WEISLING, the well-known German Socialist. It is in large quarto form of 16 pages, very handsomely got up and finely printed. It does great credit to the publishers.

The paper runs over its pages, and that they contain a great variety of interesting matter. Numerous subjects created of, and we hope to be interesting and stirring, and shrewd. Questions relating to the Banks and Credit system, to Associations of Workmen, to Land Reform, to Commercial and Law Reform, are the principal political topics discussed. We see portions of Kallio's valuable works on Labor and other Capital translated. There is a correspondence also, from Germany. The paper may be extremely interesting and instructive to our German population; and though we do not agree with all its decisions, we advise them all to obtain and read it. It comes, we see, with about 1,000 subscribers, in the City. To be found at Helmich's, 160 William-st. Price 4 cents per number.

Die Paddlers and Boilers hold meetings almost daily. They tell us that it is now certain they will go into an organization. Many propositions have been made to them. As agent of a company, they have the right to negotiate the sale of the stock of an establishment in that company. There is also an agent from the city of Boston who has been engaged by the Paddlers and Boilers to represent them. He believes that he can immediately pay compensation for and sustain a mill which is to be established in the neighborhood. The temperature, size, or liberty is not destined to rock itself to rest at this present.

THOMPSON BANK NOTE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTER.—This well-known and only established Bank Note List has been considerably enlarged and improved, and several new and valuable Departments have been added to it, including a complete list of cates taken out against land warrants, which is to be continued by adding the new cases as they are entered.

The Bank Note Report is now indispensable to every business man. Its circulation is now 48,000 copies per month.

A Charter Convention is beginning to be seriously agitated by the citizens of Williamsburg—the end to be either a city or village organization.

ALABAMA.—Wm. Garretson has been reelected Senator of Alabama—Joel R. Bassett, and Wm. Greenham, Treasurer, of the State of Alabama.

U.S. slop-of-war Marion, Commander Glendy, bound to the East Indies, sailed from Boston on Tuesday last.

William H. Dervee has been tried in Albany for the murder of Fausto Rodenho and acquitted.

From Washington—Mr. Clay's Great Speech.

OF THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 30.

This has been an important day in the Capitol. The principal attraction was the Speech and Resolutions of Mr. CLAY in the Senate. It was not till after both Houses had been organized that a low murmur was heard, whispering round the rotunda, the Library and the lobbies, that the Senator from Kentucky would speak, and the entrance to the galleries of the Senate were soon crowded and completely blocked, while strangers of distinction and members of the other House filled the spare room on the floor of the Senate. And yet so secret had the affair been kept that I doubt not many persons in the House of Representatives, in the other end of the building, and some, I know, in the Supreme Court-room below, did not even know, after both Houses had adjourned, that such a thing had come off.

* * * But this is getting monotonous. Do send we then from heaven bodies to mere Senators of the United States. Several matters have been disposed of. Gov. SWARTH has offered his Bill. He has also had a motion carried to have the claims of a New Yorker, John HOWARD of Utica, sent to St. Domingo as Secret Agent by JOHN TYLER, at last attended to. Mr. UNDINE would have offered a resolution as a substitute for Cass's motion on the Austrian Mission, Cass asking for his proposition immediate consideration, when HENRY CLAY of Kentucky rose, and the Senate was still into respectful silence.

Of his speech I shall say nothing, as you have it before you in this written. His eloquence, energy, power and beauty of oratory are certainly worthy of his great name. He commenced at 20 minutes to 1 o'clock, and concluded about half past 1, occupying nearly an hour. Without wishing to express any opinion on the merits of the speech, or of the appropriateness of the time, I may truly say that his speech was a splendid one. His exposition of the law by which our new Territories are now free—of the plausibility of the claims of Texas to New-Mexico—his denunciation of the 'abomination' of Slave Traffic in the District of Columbia—his picture of the building in flames—his appeal to the magnanimity of the North, and his conclusion with the reference from the grave of Washington to the motto—'We the people'—were all excellent.

His conclusions were set the conclusion. Says FOOTE, who considers nobody's hobby properly chartered till he has something to say over it, not to speak. He knew that the public mind would be on the rack till it knew what he thought of the matter. He kindly informed the Senate that he would not make a speech upon the subject, but to the whole world of which his name had been the soul of the whole which must have rested the public mind had he been silent. He was graciously pleased to say what he had to say over it, not to speak. He knew that the public mind would be on the rack till it knew what he thought of the matter. He kindly informed the Senate that he would not make a speech upon the subject, but to the whole world of which his name had been the soul of the whole which must have rested the public mind had he been silent. He was graciously pleased to say what he had to say over it, not to speak. 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